

sovereignty which every passing vessel
 had to
 acknowledge. He was placet! in u
 commanding
 position for all crusading enterprises;
 as the ships
 of Venice, so the ships of Sicily might be
 com-
 mandeered to carry a whole army of
 relief to the
 Holy Land; the keys of the sen-gates
 between
 East and West were in his hands, and
 remained
 with his successors through the brief
 Norman
 period.

A personal interest also bound .Roger
 with the
 Holy Land, In 1113, Baldwin, King «f
 Jerusalem,
 in marrying Roger's mother, the
 widowed Adelaide,
 had promised that the young Count of
 Sicily
 should succeed him in the kingdom
 should he die
 without an heir by her, A& we saw,
 Adelaide
 returned, a divorced arid broken-
 hearted woman,
 and the promise was never fulfilled, yet
 her ion
 never forgot that Jerusalem might lutve
 been his,
 Tenacious and ambitious in he was, he
 clung to a
 further possibility in the Holy Uowl,
 lit Italy
 he had grasped the whole of what the
 Haute vittcs
 and the house of had conquered ; not
 con-